

REMARKS

The present invention is a display module for a portable device. A display module in accordance with an embodiment of the invention includes a liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal display having a plurality of liquid crystal cells and a crystal layer, and a display driver element connected to the cells via a display connection element FPC for driving the LCD wherein the display connection element is connected to the LCD and folds under the LCD to provide the display connection element and the display driver behind the LCD.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,748,179 (Ito et al). With respect to claim 1, the Examiner reasons as follows:

Regarding Claim 1, Ito et al teaches a display module for a portable device, comprising: a liquid crystal display device comprising a liquid crystal display (LCD) having a plurality of liquid crystal cells in a crystal layer (Fig.20, Col.14, lines 27-52); and display driver element connected to the cells via a display connection element FPC for driving the LCD (Fig.22; Col.16, line 35-67), wherein the display connection element is connected to the LCD and folds under the LCD to provide the display connection element and the display driver behind the LCD (Figs.20-23; Column 14, line 27- col.15, line 60; col.16, line 35- col.17, line 16).

These grounds of rejection are traversed for the following reasons.

As the Examiner is aware, an anticipation rejection requires each limitation of the claims to be literally present or inherently present in the cited reference. It is submitted that the Examiner cannot demonstrate anticipation for several reasons. First, Ito et al do not disclose a liquid crystal display having a plurality of liquid crystal cells in a crystal layer. Instead, Ito et al disclose a single LCD as illustrated best in

Figs. 15 and 22. As may be seen in Fig. 15, insulating substrates SUB1 and SUB2 have disposed therebetween a liquid crystal LC as seen in the right-hand portion of Fig. 15 and as described in column 11, lines 63-67 through column 12, lines 1-20. As is best seen in Fig. 22, ICs are connected at the outside periphery to flexible board FPC1 and FPC3 and on the inboard side of the ICs, two lines GTM and DTM as described in column 12, lines 9-12, and column 15 in lines 43-49, function as output lines which drive the liquid crystal LC as illustrated in Fig. 15. It is therefore seen that Ito et al do not have a display driver element which corresponds to the LCs as described above with respect to Ito et al which are connected to the cells meaning the LC via a display connection element FPC for driving the LCD. As stated above, the FPC elements of Ito et al are on the outboard side of the ICs and therefore, do not drive the LC since, as stated above, the lines DTM and GTM are the outputs of the ICs which drive the liquid crystal LC. This relationship is contrary to the recitation in claim 1 that the connection to the cells of the display driver element is via a display connection element FPC for driving the LCD since the FPC1 and FPC3 of Ito et al, as illustrated in 22, are the inputs thereof.

Moreover, as may be seen in Figs. 23A and 23B, the FPC does not fold under the LCD to provide the display connection element and the display driver behind the LCD since the display connection element is provided by the wiring GTM and DTM which is not part of the folding of the FPC as illustrated in Figs. 23A and 23B.

The dependent claims define further specific aspects of the present invention which are not anticipated by Ito et al.

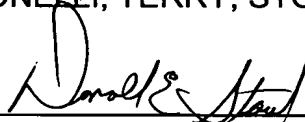
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1156.40917X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Stout", is written over a horizontal line.

Donald E. Stout
Registration No. 26,422
(703) 312-6600

DES:dlh